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Atty. Docket No.: 0013-011P1

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A computer system for verifying a commercial transaction between an account-holder and a merchant, said computer system comprising:
  - a processing unit for processing data and code; and
  - a memory device for storing said data and said code,
    - said code including a merchant communications module operative to facilitate a connection with said merchant for receiving a transaction approval request including a complete account number associated with said account-holder, said data including at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said account-holder, and
    - said code further including an authorization module responsive to said transaction approval request and operative to compare said transaction approval request with said pre-verification criteria, [[and]] to verify said transaction approval request if said at least one pre-verification criteria is satisfied, and to verify said transaction approval request with said account-holder if said at least one pre-verification criteria is not satisfied.
2. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:
  - said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification criteria; and
  - said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request if at least one of said plurality of pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

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3. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein:
  - said at least one pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of pre-verification criteria; and
  - said authorization module is operative to verify said transaction approval request only if all of said plurality of pre-verification criteria are satisfied.
4. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria are determined by said account-holder.
5. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, further comprising an account-holder communications module operative to:
  - receive a connection request from said account-holder;
  - establish a connection with said account-holder;
  - authenticate said account-holder;
  - present at least one of said pre-verification criteria to said account-holder; and
  - receive modification instructions for said one of said pre-verification criteria from said account holder.
6. (original) A computer system according to Claim 5, wherein, prior to receiving said modification instructions from said account-holder, none of said pre-verification criteria can be satisfied by said transaction approval request.
7. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria include at least one merchant identifier.
8. (original) A computer system according to Claim 7, wherein said authorization module, responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:
  - compare said merchant transmitting said transaction approval request with each of said merchant identifiers; and
  - verify said transaction approval request if said merchant sending said transaction approval request is identified by one of said merchant identifiers.

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9. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria include a maximum pre-verified purchase price.

10. (original) A computer system according to Claim 9, wherein said authorization module, responsive to receipt of a transaction approval request is operative to:

compare a purchase price contained within said transaction approval request with said maximum pre-verified purchase price; and  
verify said transaction approval request if said purchase price contained within said transaction approval request is less than said maximum pre-verified purchase price.

11. (original) A computer system according to Claim 1, wherein said pre-verification criteria include a begin date and an end date.

12. (original) A computer system according to Claim 11, wherein said authorization module, responsive to receipt of said transaction approval request, is operative to:

compare a purchase date contained within said transaction approval request with said begin date and said end date; and  
verify said transaction approval request if said purchase date falls between said begin date and said end date.

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13. (currently amended) In a computer system, a method for verifying a commercial transaction between an account-holder and a merchant, said method comprising:  
storing at least one pre-verification criteria associated with said account-holder;  
receiving a transaction approval request from said merchant, said transaction approval request including a complete account number associated with said account-holder;  
comparing said transaction approval request to said pre-verification criteria; [[and]]  
verifying said transaction approval request if said pre-verification criteria are met;  
and  
verifying said transaction approval request with said account-holder if said pre-verification criteria are not met.

14. (original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein:  
said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of pre-verification criteria; and  
said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said transaction approval request if at least one of said pre-verification criteria is satisfied.

15. (original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein:  
said step of storing at least one pre-verification criteria includes storing a plurality of pre-verification criteria; and  
said step of verifying said transaction approval request includes verifying said transaction approval request only if all of said pre-verification criteria are satisfied.

16. (original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein said at least one pre-verification criteria is determined by said account-holder.

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17. (original) A method according to Claim 13, further comprising:  
establishing a connection with said account-holder;  
authenticating said account-holder; and  
allowing said account-holder to modify said pre-verification criteria associated with  
said account-holder.
18. (original) A method according to Claim 17, wherein, none of said pre-verification  
criteria can be satisfied prior to modification by said account-holder.
19. (original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria  
includes at least one merchant identifier.
20. (original) A method according to Claim 19, wherein:  
said pre-verification criteria includes a plurality of merchant identifiers;  
said transaction approval request is verified if said merchant is identified by one of  
said plurality of merchant identifiers.
21. (original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria  
includes a pre-verified purchase price.
22. (original) A method according to Claim 21, wherein said transaction approval  
request is verified if a purchase price identified in said transaction approval request is less than  
said pre-verified purchase.
23. (original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein said pre-verification criteria  
includes at least one pre-verification date.
24. (original) A method according to Claim 23, wherein:  
said pre-verification criteria includes at least one pair of pre-verification dates; and  
said transaction approval request is verified if a transaction date included in said  
transaction approval request falls between said pre-verification dates.

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25. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 13.

26. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 14.

27. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 15.

28. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 16.

29. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 17.

30. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 18.

31. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 19.

32. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 20.

33. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 21.

34. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 22.

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35. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 23.

36. (original) A computer-readable medium having code embodied therein for causing an electronic device to perform the method of Claim 24.